[COVER]

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[colour illustration]

J. Wolf & H.C. Rickter, del et lith

GREENLAND FALCON—Falco r. candicans

In falconry, the hawk of Kings, the noblest of birds of prey. In the heyday of hawking, several specimens were brought to England from the Arctic and entered to herons. Otherwise, the great snow hawk of Greenland is an irregular spring and winter visitor to these islands. Sometimes it alights in an exhausted condition on ships at sea. Occasionally the creature is reported by bird-watchers in the north, especially along wild rugged coast. But it only leaves the Arctic in abnormally hard weather conditions. —*Eric Hosking.*

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9th DECEMBER 1955 Hugh Wilson, and Norman Wakefield came up for the weekend and, together with Bill Middleton, we set off for the Otways at about 5:30 pm on the Friday evening. We went through Beech Forest and turned down to the right through the pine and spruce plantations to the Aire R. Beyond the bridge the road became only a track (Binn's Road) and as we were the first vehicles with rear-drive wheels only, to get through that season, we had some sticky moments. However we reached the Ocean Rd where it comes out at Cape Horn and camped in a C.R.B. Camp at the junction. I saw a Satin BOWERBIRD in the dusk. We were all tired, and turned in early

10th DECEMBER 1955 After a wander round after breakfast, we made back up Binn's Rd to a spot where Norman Wakefield and Jim Wilks had previously found a good beech gully. We plunged

[10th DECEMBER 1955] down off the road into the gully and walked up it, perhaps half a mile though it seemed much longer. We found the nest of a PINK ROBIN – a superb thing perched on a tree-fern's frond, about 3 ~~miles~~ feet from the ground, Then we came across a Slender Tree-fern which Norm and Hugh measured as 24 feet – as far as is known, a record. I was extremely weary and was very tired when we got back up to the cars. We had lunch back at the Camp where we had spent the night.

In the afternoon we went on to the Parker R. and settled into Camp. I was exhausted – a most unpleasant condition. We went across to Blanket Bay and had a swim which was very reviving. On the way back we saw an INDIAN MYNAH, of all things, flying strongly for the Lighthouse. What it expected to do when it got there I don't know! At Camp we saw a SATIN FLYCATCHER and KING PARROTS. How I slept!

11th DECEMBER 1955 After breakfast we went to Mates Rest, a beech gully just off the Ocean Rd and attempted to collect a specimen of a SCRUB-WREN which Hugh Wilson thinks is more closely related to the Tasmanian bird, in that area. No luck. Then down the "Bower-Bird" Gully on the Ocean Road where we had the 'find' of the week-end – a ROSE ROBIN. An excellent view at close quarters for a quarter of an hour or so. We called in and had a cuppa with Winnie Denny at Glen Aire and came home via the Gellibrand Valley and the Black's Bridge Rd.

22nd JANUARY 1956 We commenced our Caravan Holiday complete with kids and dog at 4:10 when we left Fay's flat in Oorong Rd and got to the most successful of nights as Bardolph managed to roll in some filth, and the kids were sick.

23rd JANUARY 1956 Off at 9:45 on a hot day. Filled up with petrol at Morwell: left at 10:30 : Lakes Entrance 12:50 where we had a swim and a meal. Left 2:10; Cann R. [River] 4:30; Malacoota 6:30 where we camped out on the headland under a Callitris.

24th-25th JANUARY 1956 Two days spent lazing, swimming and walking round the beach and in a small gully near the camp. Nothing of particular interest in the way of birds was seen, other than the 'usual'.

26th JANUARY [1956] Woken at 5:00 in tearing wind and rain. I cut my wrist severely pushing up the car window. However later in the day was calm and bright. The morning was spent round the camp and at lunch I picked up Norm Wakefield + letter from the P.O. [Post Office]. It had a map of where to find things. I went down to Davis Creek and saw a NANKEEN NIGHT-HERON + BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATERS. Later the whole family went on down to the

[26th JANUARY 1956] Bekta *[Betka] River on the Aerodrome Rd and saw the LITTLE TERNS flying over and landing on the large spit at the mouth of the river where they were evidently breeding.

[2]7th JANUARY [1956] was a fine day, and I explored a gully while waiting for the ice to turn up. There I found a RUFOUS FANTAIL and thought I heard a LITTLE CUCKOO-SHRIKE. We left Malacoota at 1:30 and arrived at Lakes Entrance at 6.0. Home from there next day. It was in no sense a birding holiday, but it was a remarkably successful and we have every intention of making it a fortnight next year.

[?] September 1956 I had become enrolled as a bird-bander with a license from CSIRO Canberra and the Dept. of Fisheries + Game Also the Colac Field Naturalists had commenced. So I had thought a programme of ringing could well be introduced. It was

[? September 1956] obvious that Lake Corangamite was a likely spot for rookeries but it is huge + an efficient reconnaissance could only be done by plane. So, through the help of Graham Woods I contacted a crop - spraying pilot and machine to do it.

On Monday afternoon (I was 'off sick' convalescing from glandular fever) Graham Woods, the pilot Keith Hill and myself set off for Wool Wool at 1:30. We saw a flock of about 20 BLUE-WINGED PARROTS at Wool Wool. Arrived at the paddock we had a little difficulty with a defective spark-plug.

We were off at 3:30. I sat in the front cockpit which was the tank for the spray – no seating and, worse still no windscreen. The wind pressure was terrific. Our airspeed was around 70 MPH but 6 ft behind the propeller, it was moving past me at a much greater rate. It took me quite a time to get used to it and to decide that head only outside was preferable to shoulders and all

[? September 1956] We made first for Vaughans Island where there was a large Pelican Rookery - several hundred nests. We kept well above the birds which floated off the island in all directions. Then we went west but saw nothing on the Pomborneit shores so we turned back to Wool Wool where there were two islands covered with cormorant (Little Pied) nests. These birds streamed out across the water as we went over. Up the east coast to Pelican Point, briefly over towards Foxhow where there was apparently no island and so south again over the extensive flooded areas of Dreeite and Wool Wool to Hanlon's paddock, where after some sheep had been chased away the Tiger Moth came safely down. It was a very successful venture (though rather surprisingly no gull rookeries were seen) and quite an exciting afternoon. No payment was allowed but a tip of $2.0.0 went down well.

NOVEMBER 12th 1956 I set out at 7.0 am for the Grampians. Going by Mortlake I reached Hamilton at 9.0 to stock up with fresh supplies and petrol. Then up to Cavendish, past Eulameet to the track to the minnow – pool. The entrance to the track was flooded and after a walk around, found a way in a little further up the road. The track was OK in most places with some wet, and some sticky patches. In one of the latter I eventually stopped, my wheels spinning. Lightening the boot and some bush under the wheels got me out, but I then and there put on my chains. The remaining sticky patches were then easily crossed which led to a confidence that was my undoing. Turning to the left off the track (while it was obviously impassable) to make a detour through a paddock, I went down to the axels. That was 11.30 am. Except for a brief lunch I worked on it till 3.30.

[November 12th 1956] Then I decided to forget all about the car and camped in the scrub on the other side of the track. Putting up camp and a short wander round completed that day.

NOVEMBER 13th [1956] – Up and off early, on down the track by the minnow-pool. Across the strip of heath to the track up to the first view. This track was very wet and the last part, through the swamp was very thick – obviously no vehicle had been up it this season. After a brief pause and a drink I went on up to Eagle Falls where I bathed my feet in icy cold water and relaxed over lunch. Back then, and I ~~heard~~ saw a SATIN FLYCATCHER not far from the falls, to the weir. And so down the track. In the creek bed, just before the Minnow-pool, I heard an ORIOLE, which proved to be the first record for the Grampians. It was a long walk back to the car and a brisk heavy shower (the only rain for the three days) was

[November 13th 1956] quite welcome. General collapse at the camp, which a few whiskies completed A sound sleep.

NOVEMBER 13th [1956] At work at 7.0 on the car and at 10.10 was triumphant in backing out. I found that I had to take the chains off to let the wheels grip the wood. The only piece of good fortune was that there was a stack of fence posts 20 yds from where I stuck.

It was a gloriously hot day so I stayed round camp with very little on. I had a very good view of a Hylacola and an even better view one of a snake which I almost trod on in slippers only. I killed it - a very pale Tiger Snake. At 4.10 I moved off – with chains on – and except for a brief stop when one wheel went right down, got out onto the road safely, removed chains, and was very grateful to be on really firm ground again.

[NOVEMBER 12th 1956] I cut across there from Dunkeld -
Glen Thompson and found a BLACK-FRONTED
DOTTEREL on nest on the edge of a lake.
Had a meal in the car at L. Bolac
and returned South from there to
Mortlake and so home at 9:30 pm.
It was a wonderful three day, though
I could have done without the six
hours getting the car out of the bog.
The tally of 95 birds was very good.

NOVEMBER 16th 1956. After one day at
home, I set off on Friday morning
at about 10.0 am. this time with
Michael, in the same direction. We had
lunch by the Lake at Glen Thompson
where I could not, this time, find the
Dotterels nest. However we were amused
at the attempts of a pair of Mountain
Duck to get their young through a
fence. Then up through Dunkeld to
Cavendish, up the Balmoral Rd to
Vasey, where Max is on a property
called Dundas Park. We got there at

[November 16th, 1956] 2.15. Max was away working, so Michael and I walked a mile or so over to the bush. We could not find the Speckled Warblers Max had found but we did see a LITTLE CUCKOO-SHRIKE there. Mike had his introduction to the real business of bird-watching.

It was a cold day with showers sweeping over from the west so we decided to stay with Max and Helen that night. Mike found a bed, and though I could easily have had an early night, we sat chatting in front of the fire till 11.0, when I settled on the floor to sleep.

NOVEMBER 17th [1956] It was a much finer morning and we were off by 8.00 am. We cut across to the Henty Highway and travelled north to Glen Isla where we turned right down a track. It was thick wet sand and Max stuck twice. However that was easy to get out of and we eventually camped 4 miles down that

[NOVEMBER 17th 1956] track, just past a sticky patch which was tricky to negotiate. After setting up camp we had lunch and were off at the very early hour of 11.45. Max had brought Roddy with him – a month off seven years – and the four of us set off. Max at first couldn't find the track he had been on with Claude Austin so we wandered through very tall bracken till we stumbled across it.

Then it was easier. We had a good view of a small flock of EMUS. At the end of the track we had a stiff scramble through very tall bracken and up round the shoulder of a hill till we came to a most impressive waterfall, not a straight drop, but a total of some 70 ft. Then back down the track where Mike spotted an Echidna which Max bravely dug out with his fingers and held up. It was a long walk and the two boys were tiring. However when we got back to camp we too subsided with a

[NOVEMBER 17th 1956] drink and did our notes, while the boys, rejuvenated, dug a huge hole and made a hut! It was a fairly early night and the boys slept well.

NOVEMBER 18th. [1956] An early breakfast was accompanied by the approach of heavy clouds and we rapidly struck camp and moved out as rain came teeming down. We got off the track onto the highway successfully though we could not have left it much longer.

We returned to the Woohlpooer turn off (Chimney Gap Rd) and went a mile down to where a track leads off to the north which we were of the opinion should have joined up with the track on which we had camped the previous night and which we had just left. We went up 2½ miles by car and then walked on in the rain another 1½ miles. It was eight miles along the Henty Highway between turnings into the tracks (i.e. 85-93 m.p.) we had

[NOVEMBER 18th 1956] been in four miles from the north and five miles from the south but I think we were still a fair way apart at the two points we had reached.

As we returned to the car the rain cleared up. We drove to the junction of the access road to the Gap Rd where we had lunched twelve months ago. There I set up camp and we had lunch. Max and Roddy then went back and Mike and I climbed the nearest and lowest tor to the south. It was wonderful for Mike and so we went on to tor after tor until we sat on the top of the mountain (henceforth known as Michael's Mountain). Back to camp with Michael not nearly as tired as his father. Idling round camp till tea and an early bed, the two of us turned in and slept happily.

NOVEMBER 19th [1956] We were up and packed by 8.0 am. After a brief walk round

[NOVEMBER 19th 1956] near the camp-site we returned to a Forests Commission Rd and walked North along it. I had a wonderful view of a COLLARED SPARROW-HAWK which flew lazily round us. We went 2 miles down the track and returned to the car. I went back to the first night's camp where we had left a spade in our hurry to evacuate in the rain. Having collected that, we had lunch and I had a few shots at BLACK-CAPPED SITELLAS with no success.

Then the long trek home – Dunkeld Streatham, Derrinallum (look for C[ape]. Barren Geese) Camperdown and home at 6.00 pm. We had collected four blue-tongues on the way which we presented to the family. It had been a very good camp-out and from Michaels point of view – a howling success We finished with a list of 91 species which was quite good, though we should have had more than the first trip.

[NOVEMBER 19th 1956] Max and I made a comparative list of Otways and Grampians of the birds confined to one or the other. It is as follows : -

OTWAYS	GRAMPIANS
WHITE GOSHAWK	LITTLE CUCKOO-SHRIKE
KING PARROT	HYLACOLA CAUTA
ORANGE-BREASTED PARROT	WHITE-BROWED BABBLER
GROUND PARROT	SPECKLED WARBLER
PINK ROBIN	
ROSE ROBIN	The LITTLE EAGLE should
RUFOUS FANTAIL	have been included
RUFOUS BRISTLE-BIRD	but I saw an "almost
OLIVE-WHISTLER	certain" bird at
SINGING HONEYEATER	Barongarook 25.11.56 !
BEAUTIFUL FIRETAIL.	
SATIN BOWER-BIRD	

It is very interesting that the Otway have a larger list, but of course in the Grampians there are many birds (eg. Black-chinned and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters) which are common there and stragglers to the Otways

19th JANUARY 1957. Started on our caravanning* [caravanning] holiday with family – leaving Melbourne 11.15 am Nothing to report until late afternoon at Boss's Swamp by the Nicholson R. where there were hundreds of WHITE-NECKED HERONS – more than I had ever seen before. Near them were some white birds – egrets or spoonbills – but we didn't stop to see. Just before Lakes Entrance was a PEACEFUL DOVE. We went on to Orbost, arriving at 6.0 pm.

20th Jan. '57 We woke to the superb call of the GOLDEN WHISTLER – in fine fettle. We moved off early, arriving Malacoota at 12.40 pm. after a fairly slow drive. The afternoon was spent settling in – the jobs required for a comfortable fortnight. I was interrupted by the excited calling of PIED OYSTERCATCHERS, of which there were seven on a nearby sandbank who were apparently having territorial trouble. Around the camp, as the previous year, were WRENS and SILVEREYES. At 6.0 pm we had a very short walk along the beach and were entranced at the

[20th Jan '57] LITTLE TERNS. They evidently have an evening
flight in pairs – chasing each other often in aerobatics,
chirping rather like neophemas and glinting
silver in the setting sun.

21st Jan '57 – Monday – started a clear fine day
but the wind sprang up in the north, the
sky hazed over and at mid morning
the wind changed to a cool southerly. However
it was always pleasantly fine. In the
morning, after chores and reestablishing contact
at the local store where I found they
remembered me, we swam and lazed on
the beach. After lunch I took the boys
in with me to the township for the bread.
In the later afternoon the boys and I
went over to the large area of sand
opposite the camp where I found a couple
of LITTLE TERNS nests with their minute
fledglings. On the way back among
the caravans were a flock of gulls among
which was a first year bird with one
of the narrow rings on its right leg. One
of the N.S.W. [New South Wales] efforts I presume.

22nd Jan 57 – Tuesday – nothing to report in the way of birds. It was raining when we woke but cleared during the day. We spent the day on the beach or sleeping. Joan described what must have been a MISTLE-TOE BIRD and there were lorikeets calling from the nearby trees In the evening it got very sultry, reminding us of the eve of that hectic 5.0 am. storm last year. We'll see.

23rd Jan '59 – Wed. – Nothing to report for birds – just being lazy and sleeping !

24th Jan '57 – Thurs. – Went for a swim in the morning over on the surf and found two of the young LITTLE TERNS again and another nest with one ~~young~~ egg.

After lunch I went for a walk, taking Bardolph, down to Davis Creek but there were very few birds. It was noteworthy that the dominant birds were SILVEREYES and BROWN THORNBILLS in mixed flocks, the dominant honeyeater being – the SPINEBILL. I saw a MOUNTAIN THRUSH in the gully by the camp.

[24th Jan '57] In the evening we drove over to Bastion Point, wandered over the dunes and rocks but there were no birds.

25th January [1957] – Friday a cool grey day. In the afternoon I took Johnny round to Buckland's jetty and caught no fish and lost my rod which disappeared with great rapidity into the water.

26th Jan. [1957] – Saturday. A cold grey day with a high wind – In the afternoon the whole family went round to Buckland's jetty where it was much more sheltered. My rod had been 'fished out' the previous evening. But we still caught no fish.

27th Jan [1957] – Sunday. A strong easterly wind made itself felt but the sun shone all day and it was hot out of the ~~of~~ wind. After lunch I went over to the Betka R. to look for the young of the Little Tern which I had seen nesting on the dunes at the mouth of the river last year. However there was no sign of them this year at all – the only

[27th Jan 1957] thing on the dunes being a dead
FAIRY PENGUIN and PIPITS feeding on seeds
of succulents. But I did see a
WHITE-BREASTED SEA-EAGLE floating over
the river which was unexpected – also
a CASPIAN TERN over the lower reaches.
In the ti – trees on the dunes were
LITTLE WATTLE-BIRDS. Later in the
evening the whole family came over
to bask in the sun out of reach of
the wind.

28th Jan 1957 – Monday. After lunch I
took Mike, Johnny and Julia, together
with Paul and Sue Maugher ('our next-door'
neighbours) back five miles on the Genoa
Rd. to Double Creek. We walked a
few hundred yards upstream and
saw a party of LEWIN HONEYEATERS, which
I was unable to identify till I
returned to camp. Though it may be
listed in my notes pre-war, I think
it is virtually a new bird! Also there
was a RUFOUS FANTAIL and a

[28th Jan 1957] MOUNTAIN THRUSH singing beautifully in
the heat of the afternoon (4.0pm).
CRESCENT HONEYEATERS more common
and LORIKEETS (sp?) were noisy.
Mike saw what he thinks was
an Azure Kingfisher on the stream just
before we left for home but I did
not see it.

29th January – Tuesday. After lunch I walked
[1957] over to the Betka with Michael, Jonathan
and Paul Maugher. For the most part
we were in the heathland which
is so typical a few hundred yards
behind the dunes – but we saw no
typical birds! We forded the Davis
a few hundred yards from its mouth
and found ourselves in light eucalypt
among which was growing a banksia
with saw-edged leaves and huge flowers.
There I saw the PURPLE-GAPED HONEYEATERS
– an almost certain identification, but
about which I am going to write to
Norm Wakefield. We bathed at the

[29th January 1957] beach and I was very surprised to
see a flock of KING PARROTS feeding
on the coastal wattles. Just before we
returned home, SPINE-TAILED SWIFTS
were in the sky.

30th January [1957] – Wednesday. After lunch I
went by myself up the creek about
½ mile along the shore from the
township where Norm Wakefield had
said I should see the BLACK-FACED
FLYCATCHER and BROWN WARBLER. – And
by Jove I did too – both of them. The
former I heard early in the search
but did not find for nearly an
hour when I had lots of time
to admire it, preening on a dead
bough. Then on the way back,
elated, I heard and got a good
view of the BROWN WARBLER – a dull
little bird if ever there was one, but
no bird is dull if it is "new"! The
only other event of note was a SPOTTED
PARDALOTE which came within a few

[30th January 1957] feet of me. It was a most rewarding short walk.

[3]1st January 1957 – Thursday. We left at 10.30 on Mr Hansen's launch for the trip up to Gipsy Point. It was very hot and an ideal method of spending such a day. Two WEDGE-TAILED EAGLES with white upper base tails and generally pale in appearance, made me think of Ospreys, but I don't think they were.

After a couple of beers, and lunch we came down the inlet again and the launch turned north at Fairhaven, Hansen's farm. However he dropped me off on the Goodwin Sands where I had 2½ hours to myself. Young LITTLE TERNS were being fed on the banks amongst much chittering, LITTLE STINT and SHARP-TAILED STINT as well as flocks of RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL flew off in glittering flocks. I moved along

[31st January 1957] the sand to some tussocks and shrubs
where I put up some snipe and came
across a fairly small SILVER GULL
ROOKERY. There were eggs, small
chicks and larger young running
off to the water. Then I came across
a dead gull, a first year
bird, which had a fish hook
in its lower mandible and a ring
on its right leg which I carefully
removed (as well as the two hooks).
I then retraced my steps to
the other end of the long arc of
an island the centre of which was
very shallow water on sand and
mud which provided good feeding
for innumerable TEAL and various waders.
A pair of CASPIAN TERNS, flew round me,
obviously nesting out on their own but
no nest was found. I walked out
onto the shallows and saw a flock
of 17 Godwit and, as I was out
there CURLEWS, starting coming in

[31st January 1957] in quite large numbers to feed on
the shallows. Then I had to rush
across the shallows to meet the launch.
When I got back to looked up
my bird-banding field note-book and
received one of the thrills of my life.
For the dead bird I had found
was one of ours! 08-04209 banded
at Worrowie on Oct 6th. Had a
couple of extra whiskies to celebrate.
On p.19 (ante) I noted a bird
with a ring, round the camp and it
is very probable that it took a bit of
bait still left on the hook, which
killed it. The luck is that it
flew to a rookery some 2 miles away
to die and for me to find it.

Feb 1st 1957 Friday. In the morning
I went to Davis Creek to the banksia,
to try and find the Purple-gaped
Honeyeaters again but failed. A LITTLE
FALCON flashed over me and I had
a good view of an AZURE KINGFISHER.

[Feb 1st 1957] After lunch we set forth for home and a few miles out I saw a flock of 5 BLACK COCKATOOS flying away to the left. A few moments later Joan said "What is the Black Cockatoo with red on its tail?" She had seen a couple flying in to the right at the same spot! The brakes were jammed on hard but I never saw them. A fine view of a 'new bird', and Joan was duly contrite for not speaking earlier.

We made Orbost for tea and Lakes Entrance (9.15) for camp where I promptly bogged myself in the sand.

February 2nd 1957 – Saturday. We got off to an early start, I had breakfast in our hotel in Bairnsdale and moved steadily home. At Rosedale there was huge, concentrated flock of two species of Heron, WHITE IBIS and Y-B [YELLOW-BILLED] SPOONBILLS. We had

[February 2nd 1957] lunch near Warragul and were in Melbourne by 2.15. As I was leaving the caravan at the Dunnets [guess] a NANKEEN NIGHT-HERON flew over the valley!

It was a superb holiday – as caravanning with family, and really very good for birds – a total of 100 over the trip – 82 of which were at Malacoota. New birds – Black-faced Flycatcher and Brown Warbler; Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (unsatisfactory) Lewin Honeyeater (so far only heard at Derra) and the Purple-gaped Honeyeater which I have in my notes as plentiful in the Mangroves round Mackay, the identification of which has always worried me.

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3.	22-28.1.56	Caravanning holiday – MALACOOTA.
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9.	13.11.56	– 1st Weir – Eagle Falls
10.	14.11.56	– Out of bog – round camp – home
11.	16.11.56	GRAMPIANS (2) – Home → Dundas Park
12.	17.11.56	– Glen Isla* [Glenisla] track : walk to Falls
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15.	19.11.56	– Back to Glen Isla* [Glenisla] – home.
17.	—	Comparative list of Grampians and Otway birds
18.	19.1.57	Melbourne – Orbost
18.	20.1.57	Orbost – Malacoota.
19.	21.1.57	Malacoota
20.	22.1.57	" [Malacoota]
20.	23.1.57	" [Malacoota]
20.	24.1.57	" [Malacoota]
21.	25.1.57	" [Malacoota]
21.	26.1.57	" [Malacoota]

[/table]

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P.	DATE	EXCURSION
21	27.1.57	Malacoota – Bekta* [Betka] Rd.
22	28.1.57	" [Malacoota] – Double Gritz* [Creek?]
23.	29.1.57	" [Malacoota] – Walk to Belka
24	30.5.57	" [Malacoota] – Creek ½ mile along shore
25	31.5.57	" [Malacoota] – Gypsy Point + Goodwin Sands
27	1.2.57	" [Malacoota] Davis Creek – Departure
28	2.2.57	Lakes Entrance – Melbourne

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J. Wolf & H.C. Richter, del et lith *Prints by courtesy of the London Library*

GOLDEN EAGLE – Aquila c. chrysaetus.

We begin our reproductions from John Gould's "British Birds" with four of the most spectacular birds in the British Isles. They belong to the family known as the *accipitriformes*; the diurnal birds of prey. Most majestic is the Golden Eagle, which now breeds only in the Highlands of Scotland and the Hebrides. This great bird, with its wing span of seven to eight feet, was once supposed to carry off human babies to feed its young. In fact, it leaves even its own eyrie on the approach of man.

[/caption]